

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET - 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR ARNOLD ENGLAND**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 To seek approval to build a new Activity Hub specialising in providing day activities which promote health, wellbeing and community engagement for adults with a learning disability (ALD) as part of the Hollinswood Regeneration programme.
- 1.2 To seek approval to refurbish, remodel and extend the Severns Day Centre to become the preferred destination for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) who require specialist care and support to engage in a wide range of activities.
- 1.3 To make improvements to the outside walkway on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Downing House Residential Home for ALD service users to bring the floor back into full operation, making it accessible to a wider client group.
- 1.4 Once the new buildings outlined in 1.1 and 1.2 above are available for occupancy the day opportunity service offer for ALD service users currently provided from Halesfield Day Centre and Lakeside Centre in Stirchley will cease and be transferred for delivery from the new buildings outlined above along with Unit TEN.
- 1.5 Plans will also be developed over the next 12 months, in partnership with service users and their parents/carers/guardians to provide additional day service activities from other community based buildings, along with an activity programme to include visits to the cinema, football games etc..
- 1.6 The capital receipts from the sale buildings currently and previously used by ALD services, and which are outlined in the Summary Impact Assessment, will be utilised to fund the developments outlined above. This investment is just one of the improvements being made to improve the quality of service we offer to ensure we are the provider of choice for adults with a learning disability and longer term other client groups as we diversify our offer.
- 1.7 The outcome of a wide ranging consultation and engagement programme undertaken in 2012/13, regarding the future provision of services for ALD service users referred to as 'New Options', is enclosed in **Appendix A**. The proposals in this particular report respond to some of that feedback. Further reports may therefore be presented to Cabinet regarding the provision of residential and community support services for ALD service users, once those services have

been reviewed and the feedback from the New Options consultation fully considered. However, at present there are no planned changes to report on.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the construction of an Activity Hub for adults with a learning disability as part of the Regeneration Plans for Hollinswood, in response to previous stakeholder consultation which was in favour of an activity hub.**
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the remodelling, refurbishment and extension of the Severns Day Centre to a specification to meet the needs of adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities.**
- 2.3 That Cabinet approve the improvements to the first floor walkway at Downing House Residential home, to make the first floor more accessible and available to a wider group of service users who require residential or respite care.**
- 2.4 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Business Development and Employment to negotiate and dispose of freehold interest in the Operational properties/land as detailed in Section 4 and apply these capital receipts towards the funding of the scheme as detailed in the Summary Impact Assessment.**

## **3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific community priorities	
	Yes	<i>Vulnerable children and adults</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	These improvements will directly benefit adults with a learning disability who live in our borough and longer term those who live outside of our borough but who may wish to purchase their care package from Telford & Wrekin Provider Services.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	Remodelling and extension to the Severns Day Centre – Summer 2015 New Activity Hub Build at Hollinswood – Winter 2015 Improvements to 1st floor walkway of Downing House – Summer 2015	
<b>FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The Capital cost of the proposals of £1.378m are fully funded from existing capital allocations within the capital programme of £900,000 and £478,000 receipts from the disposal of buildings noted in this report. There are no changes to the net revenue position of the ALD service as a result of these proposals. Anticipated net savings in accommodation costs of £50,000 per annum will be reflected within the savings proposals for the Assistant

		<p>Director Development, Business &amp; Employment.</p> <p>The proposal to build a new Activity Hub is part of the broader restructure currently underway in Adult Provider Services. The restructure will lead to a more business focussed approach and is estimated to deliver around £0.8m savings which will contribute towards the Service Area savings target and the Council's overall budget strategy.</p>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<p>Outlined in detail in the report to follow on the agenda regarding the regeneration of Hollinswood of which this project is a key part</p>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<p>As a result of the deployment of personal budgets, service users and their carers/parents/guardians will have a much greater choice of which provider to purchase their care and support package from. There is a risk that the amount of personal budget allocated to each individual service user, following the social workers assessment of need, may not cover the full cost of their current level of attendance at day activity services. There is also a risk that service users choose to purchase their care from an alternative provider and not from the Councils in house service. Therefore it is essential that we offer not only a good service which is well located geographically but a service that is affordable and flexible from where it operates and the hours it operates from, whilst ensuring we can compete in the market place alongside other providers.</p> <p>These changes help to realise economies of scale and to operate from more efficient buildings with the aims of keeping transport costs to a minimum whilst supporting independent travel for those who are able to.</p> <p>The Equalities Impact has been considered and whilst the location of service provision will change the services will still be accessible to service users albeit from some different locations, with a number of enhancements being made to include access from a main bus route, reducing unit costs helping to keep the service accessible to those service users who may have a reduced personal budget, increased hours of opening including the opportunity for service users to attend for half days as required.</p>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	<p>Hollinswood &amp; Randlay &amp; Dothill</p>

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

## 4.1 Introduction and Background

### 4.1.1 Consultation & Engagement

4.1.2 In 2012 and 2013 we carried out a large number of conversations with service users, parents, carers and stakeholders with regard to the future development of adult provider services. Having carried out a fact finding programme during Winter 2012/13 we were then in a position to deliver a comprehensive programme of consultation for three months during Autumn 2013. In total we received 1,243 interactions/comments which culminated in the summary report presented in **Appendix A**. We will now focus on supporting those individuals through transition to new services through case management and key working. It is essential that awareness is raised and service users and their families are prepared and supported to respond to the improvements to services outlined in this report and how these changes are going to affect them individually. Our approach will be to ensure we are communicating with all those people affected, providing clear, transparent and accessible information.

4.1.3 We have considered the feedback from the consultation and used it to establish some key principles on how these changes and any future proposed changes should be introduced. Our full principles for consultation are outlined in **Appendix B** however the key principles include:

- The need for clear, honest and timely communication
- The need to produce clear and individualised plans
- The need to involve the support of others
- Acknowledgment that for some the changes may be difficult.

4.1.4 Following endorsement by Cabinet of these proposals arrangements are being made to write to all key stakeholders to update them regarding these proposals and as promised by the Assistant Director, Customer Services who wrote in February of this year as a result of senior management changes for this service area. The purpose is to engage service users, parents, carers and employees in the the changes and to help design the service so that there is ownership and more importantly development of a day activity service that people want to attend. We are also in conversation with Taking Part an advocacy service for ALD service users who assisted in the early days of our consultation to help facilitate discussions. We will also be putting plans in place to discuss the logistics and individual plans for service users affected by these changes to ensure a smooth transition to our new service provision.

4.1.5 The consultation in 2012/13 concluded at the point when the public sector was faced with making more major savings following the reduction in Government funding for local authorities and before the deployment of personal budgets in adult social care services, both of which have impacted on the adult provider services landscape. The fact finding and consultation process was helpful however as it provided a view from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the current day services offer along with suggestions for improvement and change. Some of the feedback is outlined below:-

- *Service locations not on public transport routes – I can't use my bus pass*
- *It is really important to meet with friends. If we don't have specific building to meet in then we might lose touch with our friends*
- *Buildings too old, big and noisy*
- *What about arranging day trips to go to Wolves, Liverpool, football clubs*
- *Develop a pay as you go commercial arm to the service with core services funded by personal budgets*
- *Where buildings are under utilised or are in a poor state I completely agree they should be removed from the pool however money saved from closing buildings should help to provide funds to refurbish other properties*
- *I would prefer the council to maintain council run centres, though relocation into places which would be more convenient to users should be encouraged*
- *Service users are upset that they may not be able to attend Unit TEN*
- *There is no where listed in terms of buildings for complex needs service*

## **5.0 Proposed Changes to Day Services**

### **5.1 New Activity Hub at Hollinswood**

- 5.1.1 The proposed new Activity Hub for adults with a learning disability referred to in 1.1 and **Appendix C** will be a purpose built facility located in Hollinswood just 10 minutes walk from Southwater, the Shopping Centre and the Town Park, with all the excellent facilities this location has to offer. It's also located on a main bus route and close to the main bus terminal for the shopping centre, supporting service users who are able to, to use the bus to access our service. The building will provide a base from which a range of activities will be developed, along with extended opening times supporting attendance for just morning or afternoons if required. The new Hub is scheduled to open in January, 2016 subject to planning consultation. The closure of Halesfield Day Centre will coincide with the opening of the new proposed activity hub so that a managed transition can take place.
- 5.1.2 We will be looking to share the space within the new Activity Hub with the local community and encourage them to join in on some of our local activities in support of our ambitions to gain further integration of adults with a learning disabilities into our local community. (as well as making the building accessible if required during the evening).
- 5.1.3 Our aspiration is to work in partnership with the local town and parish council where appropriate making use of their building, which is co-located on the new Hollinswood site for the provision of community based activities at a time convenient to all key stakeholders. This aspiration to work together will be discussed more during the consultation stages of the planning application and thereafter before the hub opens.

### **5.2 Proposal for The Severns**

- 5.2.1 Our Lakeside Day Centre in Stirchley specialises in providing day opportunities for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). There are plans to

demolish this building as part of the Regeneration Plans for that site which includes a new school. In advance of this there is an opportunity to remodel, refurbish and extend one of our other Day Centres known as 'The Severns'. The Severns, in Wellington, is located on the same footprint as our 16 bedded residential unit for ALD service users 'Downing House'. The building will be redeveloped to a high specification to fully meet the needs of PMLD service users and this will include a sensory room, personal care facilities, therapy room, general activities and dedicated outdoor space.

- 5.2.2 Longer term there may be economies of scale with staff working across both Downing House and The Severns. A number of service users with PMLD already live at Downing House. Currently they are being transported to Lakeside and have to be woken early each morning to make the journey. A new service at The Severns will reduce transport costs and allow service users to get up at a much more acceptable time in the morning. The joint location will also offer the opportunity for people to use the service on a sessional basis.
- 5.2.3 The service users who currently attend The Severns will ultimately be able to access our new Activity Hub in Hollinswood. The timing of the two projects will mean that we need to identify interim alternative day opportunity placements for service users who currently attend The Severns, to allow for the refurbishment to commence. We will be supporting all service users through the transition as outlined in 4.1.3.
- 5.2.4 The day services at both Lakeside, The Severns and Halesfield will remain fully operational until the new Activity Hub at Hollinswood becomes available for use.

### 5.3 **Unit TEN**

- 5.3.1 There are no plans at present to make any major changes to TEN (Training for Employment Now). This service is currently delivered from Unit 10 Horsehay and provides support to adults with learning disabilities who wish to develop skills and move towards the world of work by engaging in practical work based training, in areas such as rustic furniture production, IT, office skills, craft, and retail. However, we do propose to re name the service: The Skills and Enterprise Hub and will look to offer a service to all vulnerable adult groups and explore opportunities to develop further enterprise initiatives such as TWIGS, (Telford and Wrekin Inclusive Gardening Services).

### 5.4 **Inclusive Education – Unit 11**

- 5.4.1 This service has temporarily been located within Unit 11 following the closure of the social education centre at TCAT. Inclusive Education and Inclusive Leisure will merge to become part of a wider Activity and Wellbeing Service and will be provided from our new Activity Hub/Community buildings. During this interim period we will be transferring the service from Unit 11 for delivery across our remaining day services including Lakeside, Severns and Halesfield. This incremental change has already started to take place with many service users now accessing the service from those different locations.

## **5.5 Downing House Walkway – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

- 5.5.1 We will be making some improvements to the first floor outside walkway at Downing House. At present the walkway is made of metal and you can see through it and from a health and safety point of view there is a danger of shoe heels getting stuck. The format of the walkway is very off putting to both service users and visitors. Making these improvements will bring the first floor accommodation back into use making it accessible for a much wider group of service users.

## **5.6 Shared Lives**

- 5.6.1 A separate report will be provided to Cabinet in the Winter of 2014 outlining our plans for the redevelopment and relaunch of our Shared Lives Scheme. The revamped scheme should be seen as complimentary to our Day Activity offer already as it will offer alternative day opportunity placements, as well as respite care and permanent placements for those unable to live in the community without support. The current scheme is primarily for adults with a learning disability however we have plans to develop the scheme to support a much wider client group.

## **6.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

New Options Consultation Programme Report to Cabinet 2013

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